

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A recording apparatus comprising:
first through n-th recording means for recording input broadcast contents to a recording medium;
user interfacing means for inputting an instruction of a user to reserve a recording of a broadcast content; and
reservation managing means which manages reservations of broadcast content recordings with respect to each of said first through n-th recording means and which, when making a reservation of a broadcast content recording in accordance with the recording reservation instruction input through said user interfacing means, selects automatically one of the first through n-th recording means available for a time slot corresponding to the recording reservation, in order to make said recording reservation to the selected recording means,
when a time slot corresponding to said recording reservation conflicts with a time slot of a previously made recording reservation because none of the first through n-th recording means is available for the time slot corresponding to said recording reservation, the recording reservation and the previously made recording reservation are assigned respective priorities by the user, one having a higher priority than the other, the time slot is allocated to the reservation having the higher priority, and a record is maintained of the reservation having the lower priority.

2. (previously presented) The recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said user interfacing means performs a selection requesting process for prompting said user to select one of said recording means to which to make said recording reservation.

3.(original) The recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, when performing said selection requesting process, said user interfacing means also carries out a process for presenting the time slot applicable to the broadcast content to be reserved for unattended recording, and any previously made recording reservation overlapping either partially or totally with said time slot.

4.(original) The recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, if said user selects one of said recording means to which to make said recording reservation in response to said selection requesting process performed by said user interfacing means, then said reservation managing means makes said recording reservation to the user-selected recording means.

5.(original) The recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reservation managing means performs a switching process for automatically switching a recording reservation made to any one of said recording means to another recording means.

6.(original) The recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein, if a recording reservation made to a particular one of said first through n-th recording means is canceled, then said reservation managing means switches another recording reservation made to another recording means to that particular recording means.

7.(currently amended) A recording reservation processing method for use with a recording apparatus having first through n-th recording means for recording input broadcast contents to a recording medium, said recording reservation processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting an instruction to reserve a broadcast content recording based on operations by a user;

automatically selecting from said first through n-th recording means recording means available for a time slot corresponding to the recording reservation designated by said instruction input in the inputting step; and

making said recording reservation to the recording means selected automatically in the automatically selecting step, said recording reservation being designated by said instruction input in the inputting step,

when a time slot corresponding to said recording reservation conflicts with a time slot of a previously made recording reservation because none of the first through n-th recording means is available for the time slot corresponding to said recording reservation, the recording reservation and the previously made recording reservation are assigned respective priorities by the user, one having a higher priority than the other, the time slot is allocated to the reservation having the higher priority, and a record is maintained of the reservation having the lower priority.

8. (previously presented) The recording reservation processing method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

requesting that said user select a recording means to which said recording reservation is to be made; and

if said user selects in the selection requesting step the recording means to which to make said recording reservation, then making said recording reservation a second time to the user-selected recording means.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A recording reservation processing method for use with a recording apparatus having first through n-th recording means for recording input broadcast contents to a recording medium, said recording reservation processing method comprising the steps of:

making a reservation of a broadcast content recording to any one of said first through n-th recording means; and

switching automatically a recording reservation made to any one of said recording means to another recording means when the time slot corresponding to said recording reservation conflicts with a time slot of a previously made recording reservation for recording onto said another recording means, said previously made recording reservation is canceled, and said recording reservation does not conflict with any other previously made recording reservation for recording to said another recording means;

when a time slot corresponding to said recording reservation conflicts with a time slot of a previously made recording reservation because none of the first through n-th recording means is available for the time slot corresponding to said recording reservation, the recording reservation and the previously made recording reservation are assigned respective priorities by a user, one having a higher priority than the other, the time slot is allocated to the reservation having the higher priority, and a record is maintained of the reservation having the lower priority.

11. (canceled).